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ABSTRACT

This booklet presents basic information on the transition from early intervention or preschool to school for parents of young children with disabilities living in Ohio. Through extensive graphics and large print, the booklet provides information on the following topics: what transition is; who is involved in transition; requirements for parental consent; the role of the early intervention service coordinator; parental consent and evaluation requirements for the transition from early intervention to preschool and from preschool to school; requirements for the transition plan; the importance of identifying what services are to be provided, where, when, and by whom; and the importance of building positive working relationships between parents and local school districts. (DB)

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# FOLLOW THE YELLOW BRICK ROAD TO TRANSITION

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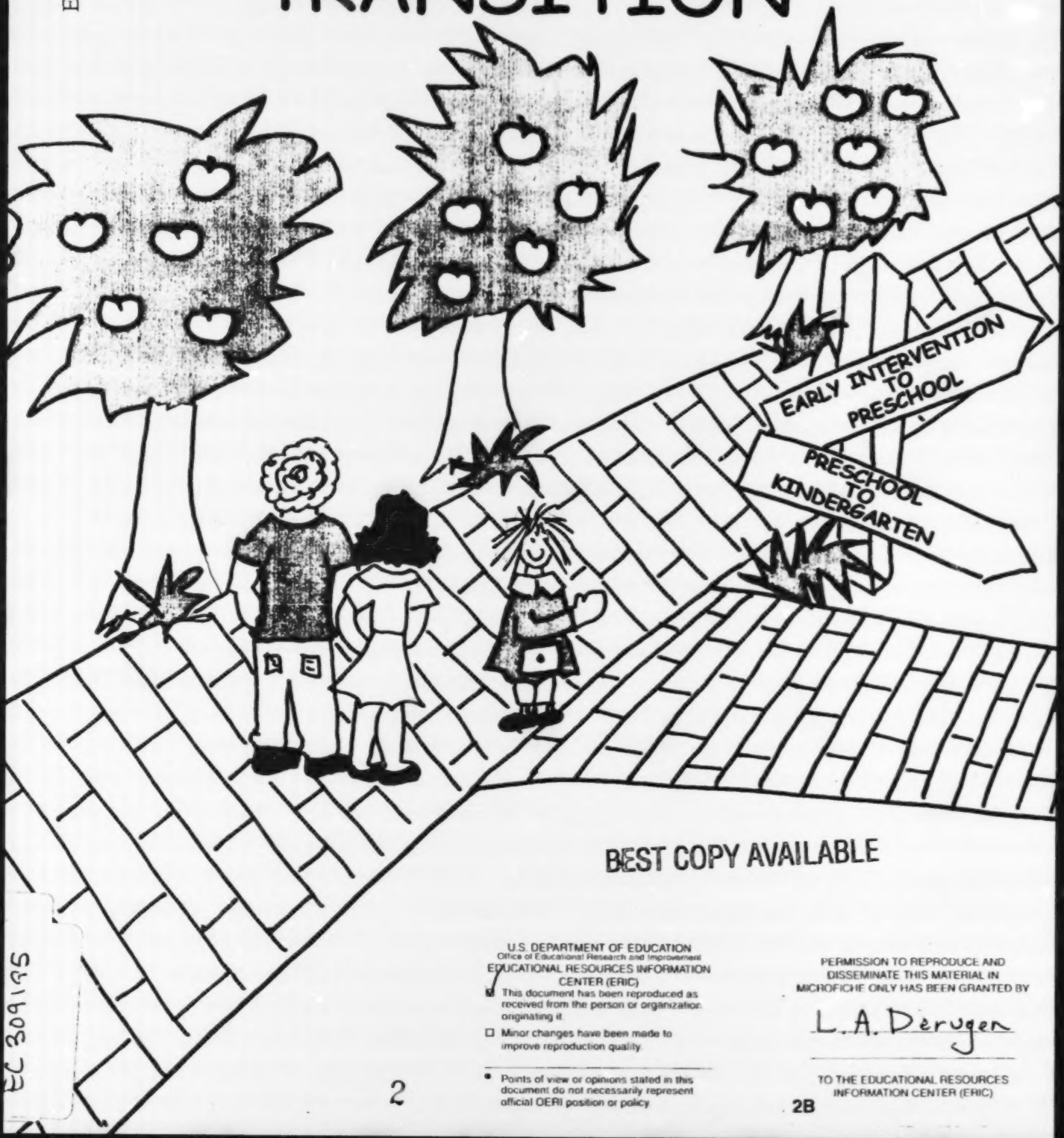


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**The Ohio Coalition for the Education of Children with Disabilities (OCECD)** is a statewide, nonprofit organization that serves families of infants, toddlers, children and youth with disabilities in Ohio, and agencies who provide services to them OCECD works through the coalition efforts of the 55 disability organizations which comprise the Coalition.

Established in 1972 and staffed primarily by parents of children and adults with disabilities, persons with disabilities, and education professions, the Coalition mission is to ensure that every Ohio child with special needs receives a free, appropriate, public education in the least restrictive environment to enable that child to reach his/her highest potential. Throughout Ohio, the Coalition's services reach families of children and youth with all disabilities.

OCECD's programs help parents become informed and effective representatives for their children in all educational settings. In addition, youth are assisted to become their own self-advocates. Through knowledge about laws, resources, rights and responsibilities, families are better able to work with agencies to ensure that appropriate services are received for the benefit of their sons and daughters.

*Address: Bank One Building, 165 West Center Street, Suite 302, Marion, OH 43302-3741*
*Phone: (740) 382-5452 (Voice/TDD); (800) 374-2806 (Toll Free); (740) 383-6421 (Fax)*

**Family Ties Project** – Provides workshops emphasizing normal child development, parenting skills, the value of early intervention and early childhood education, and the parents role in the IEP process. Outreach to under represented families in urban centers and rural areas is a feature.

**Parent Involvement in Education** – Supports local level efforts to connect families to appropriate services for their children with special needs, ages 5 - 21. Provides individual parent assistance as well as workshops on the IEP process, Section 504, IDEA '97, specific disabilities, classroom modifications, and other topics.

Technical assistance to **parent mentor projects** of the Ohio Department of Education is provided through statewide meetings, retreats, site visits and telephone consultations.

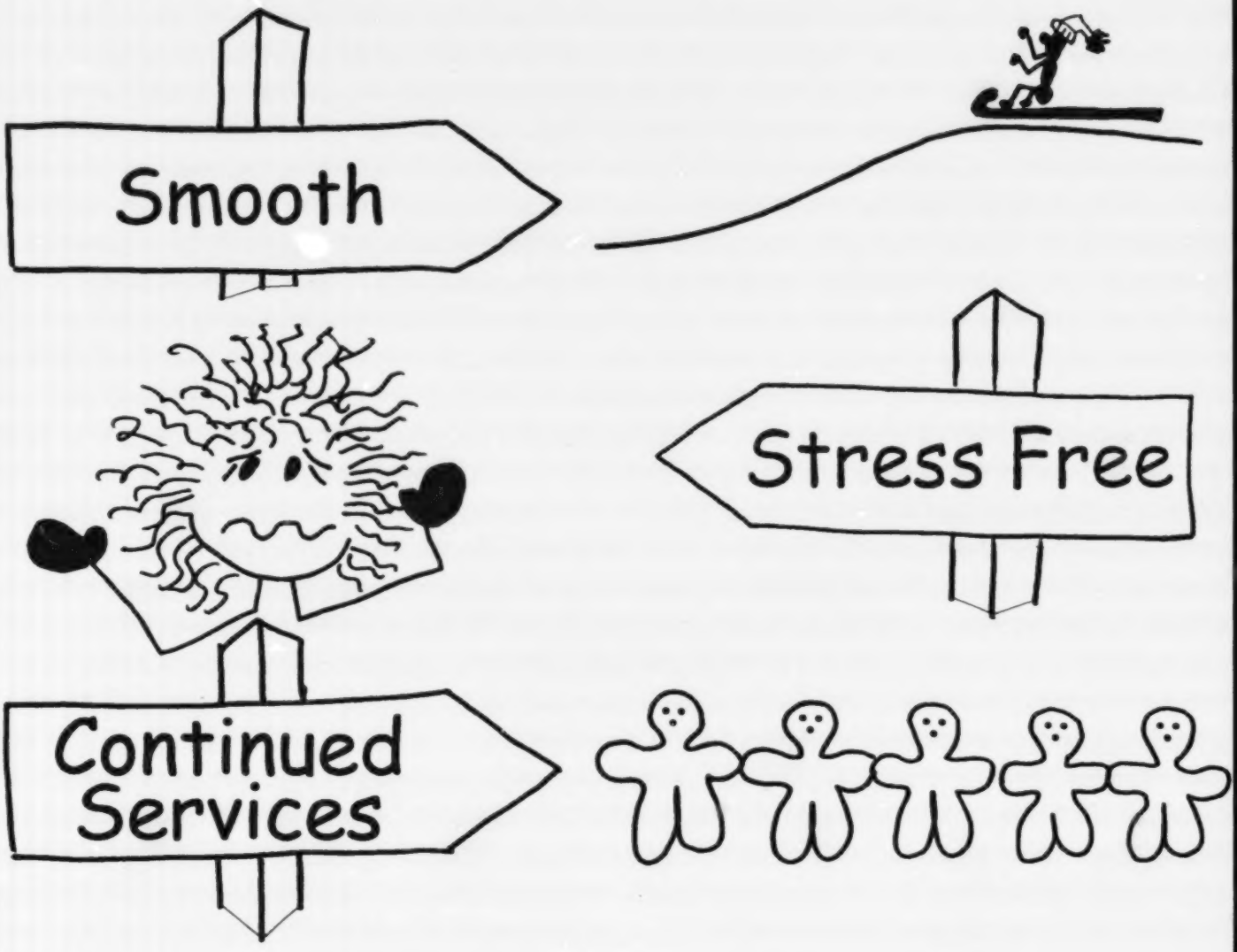
**Parent Training and Information Center Project** – Disseminates information to at least 500,000 parents, professionals, and members of the public regarding disability issues. Publishes the FORUM newsletter with subscriber support. Trains parent leaders from diverse parent organizations across the state to support families and to provide personal assistance.

**It's My Turn** – Curriculum which promotes increased capacity of youth with disabilities to make choices and to advocate for themselves. Students gain the competencies to learn, work, live, and recreate in the community.

Printing made possible by U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation Services – P.L. 105-17 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, through the Ohio Department of Education, Office of Early Childhood. However, the opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the position or policy of the U.S. Department of Education, and no official endorsement by the U.S. Department of Education should be inferred.

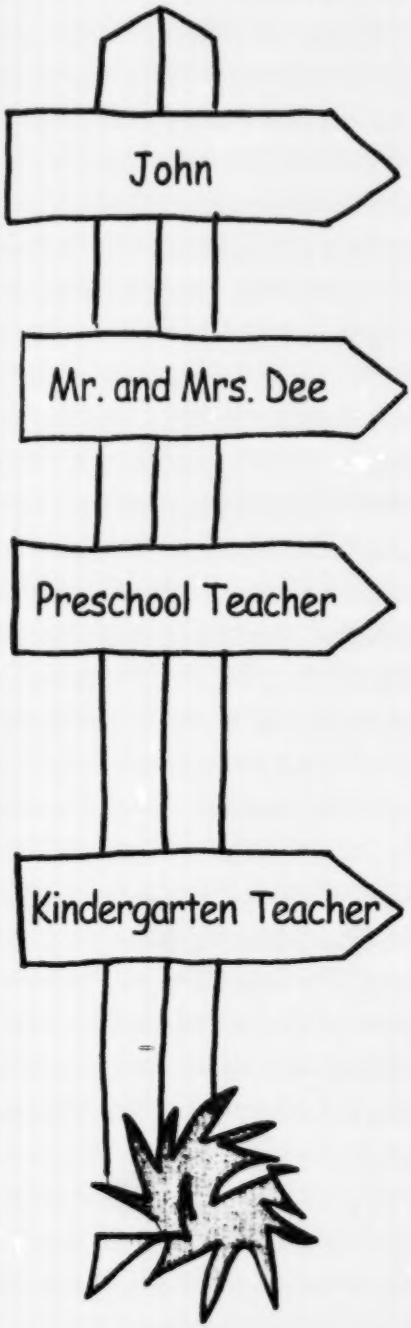
**Printed 03/2000 PRICE $7.00 – One copy FREE to parents in Ohio as supplies are available.**

# WHAT IS TRANSITION?




**CHANGING FROM ONE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT SMOOTHLY, WITHOUT INTERRUPTION OF SERVICES TO ANOTHER LEARNING ENVIRONMENT**

# WHO IS INVOLVED IN TRANSITION?




**CHILD**

**PARENTS**

**PERSONS CARING FOR AND WORKING WITH THE CHILD**

**PERSONS WHO *WILL BE* WORKING WITH THE CHILD**
(LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT IS ALSO INCLUDED AT AGE 3)

***PARENTAL CONSENT MUST*** be given for the school district (or other receiving agency) to be involved in the transition planning meeting.

***PARENTAL CONSENT MUST*** also be given for the evaluation/assessment process to begin.

The **EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICE COORDINATOR** is the guiding hand in the transition process. They will contact the school district and share information if agreed upon by the parents. They will help the parents know the "whys, whats, and whoms" of the transition plan.

# FROM EARLY INTERVENTION TO PRESCHOOL

90 DAYS BEFORE YOUR CHILD TURNS 3 YEARS OLD, YOU MUST GIVE PERMISSION TO HAVE YOUR CHILD EVALUATED. THIS EVALUATION IS TO IDENTIFY YOUR CHILD'S AREAS OF STRENGTHS AND NEEDS.

OR

# FROM PRESCHOOL TO SCHOOL

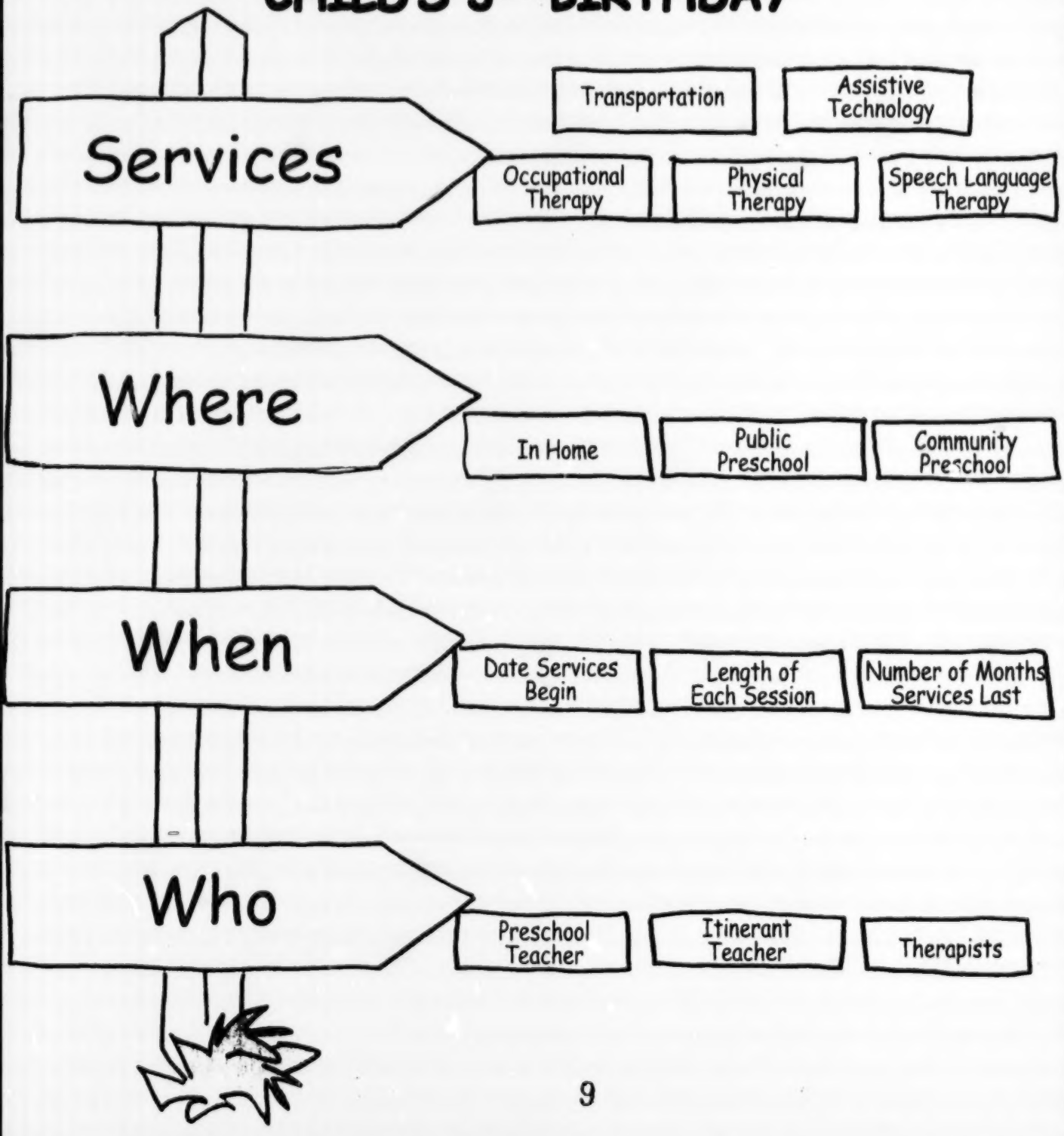
90 DAYS BEFORE YOUR CHILD ENTERS KINDERGARTEN , YOU MUST GIVE PERMISSION TO HAVE YOUR CHILD EVALUATED. THIS EVALUATION IS TO IDENTIFY YOUR CHILD'S AREAS OF STRENGTHS AND NEEDS.

The **TRANSITION PLAN** must be detailed enough to include:

- ***The transition activities that are to take place***
- ***The individuals responsible***
- ***A timeline for services to begin***
- ***A timeline for completion of each step***
- ***A list of team members involved***
- ***The child's placement***
- ***The child's functional levels/goals***
- ***General information about the child***

Helping a child and parent transition includes defining steps that will help them separate from their current program and adjust to and feel supported in their new environment.

# A TRANSITION PLAN FOR EARLY INTERVENTION TO PRESCHOOL SHOULD BEGIN 120 DAYS BEFORE A CHILD'S 3RD BIRTHDAY



# FOR EARLY INTERVENTION TO PRESCHOOL

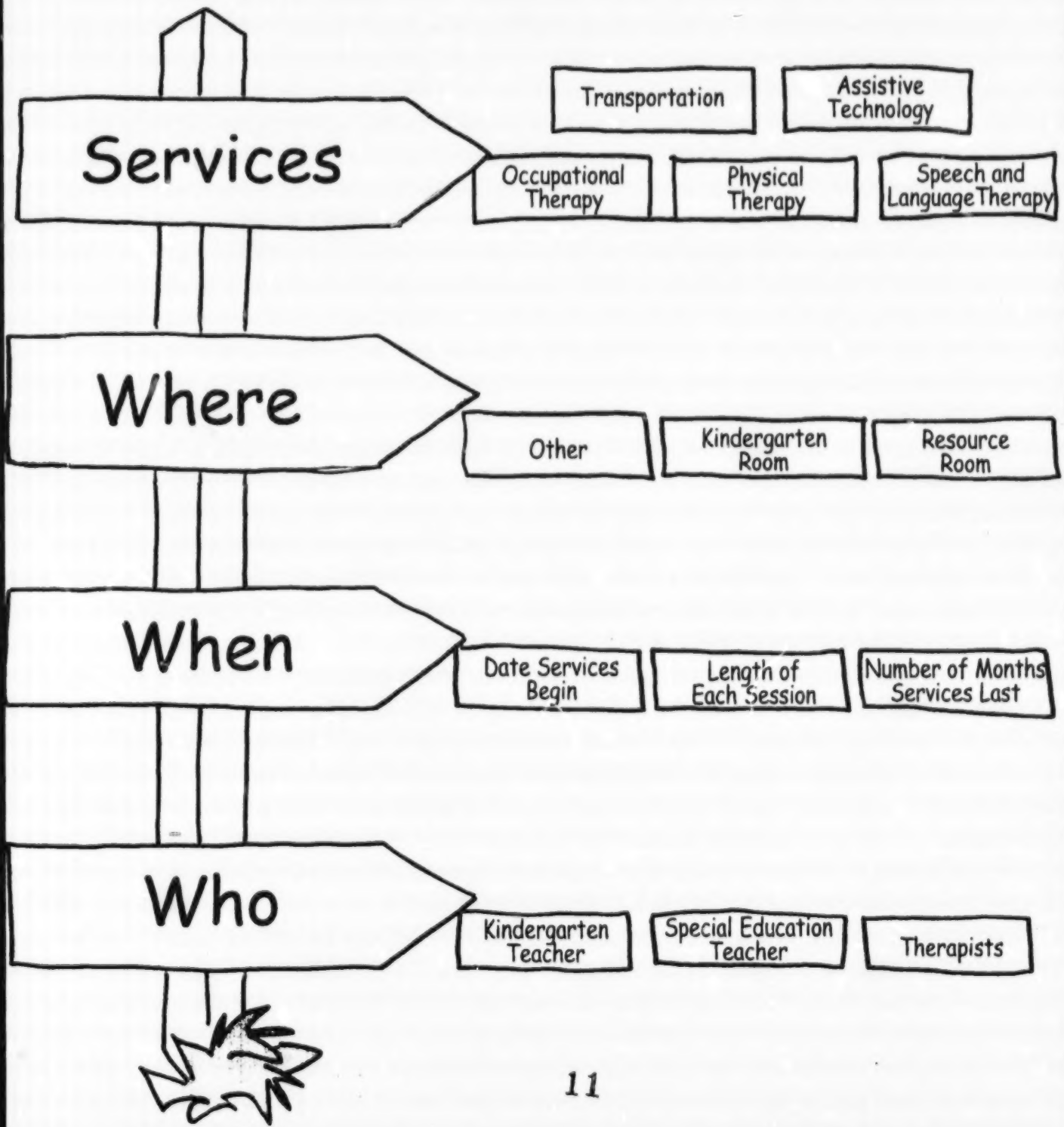
At least 120 days **BEFORE** your child turns 3 years old and is planning to exit from Early Intervention services, a meeting must be held with:

- **Parents**
- **Service Coordinator**
- **Public School Personnel**
- **Lead Agency**

This meeting is to discuss what service options are needed and available, evaluation/assessment needs, educational/medical/developmental records review, discuss specific transition needs, and establish a transition plan.

If a MR/DD (Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities) Early Intervention Program is involved then the transition planning will take place at least **6 MONTHS BEFORE** your child turns 3 years old.

# A TRANSITION PLAN FOR PRESCHOOL TO KINDERGARTEN

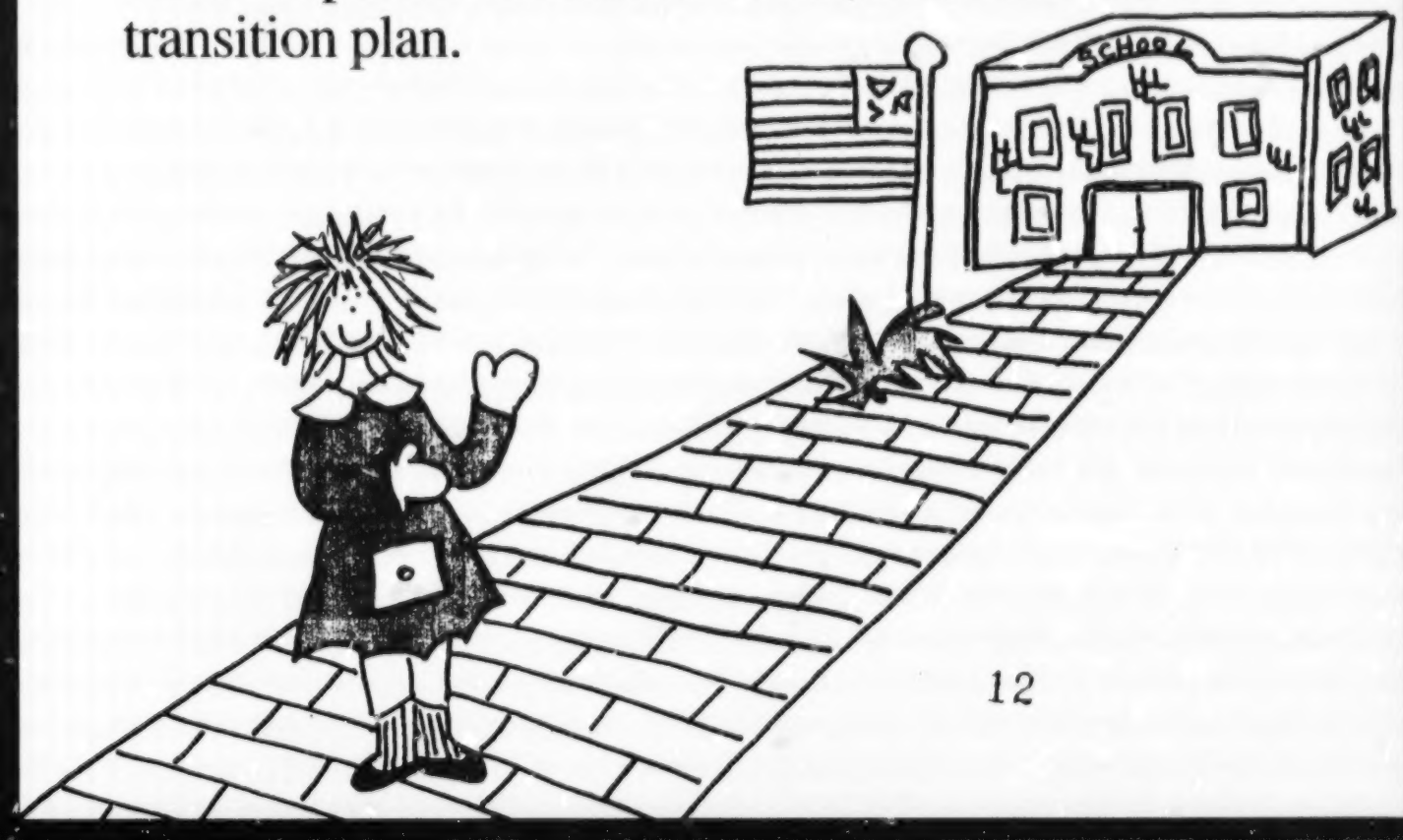


# FOR PRESCHOOL TO SCHOOL

During your child's IEP meeting for their last year of Preschool there must be a discussion to address transition needs. This meeting must include:

- **Parents**
- **Public School Administrator**
- **Regular Education Teacher**
- **Preschool Teacher**

This meeting is to discuss what service options are needed and available, evaluation/assessment needs, educational/medical/developmental records review, discuss specific transition needs, and establish a transition plan.



Local School Districts and parents should build **positive working relationships** right from the start.

***Classroom visits***

***Communication with past and future teachers***

***Sharing of child's abilities/likes/dislikes/learning style***

***Evaluations/assessments that are current (within one year)***

***Environmental needs***

***Well trained personnel***

***Well defined and written plans...***

will help transition be a positive and pleasant experience for child, parents, and schools.



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The Ohio Department of Education, Office of Early Childhood and the Ohio Department of Health, Bureau of Early Intervention have an agreement.

It is called the:

## INTERAGENCY AGREEMENT ON TRANSITION

From Early Intervention to Preschool Special Education Programs

Ohio Dept. of Health  Ohio Dept. of Education

# NOTES

OHIO COALITION FOR THE EDUCATION OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES
165 WEST CENTER ST., SUITE 302
MARION, OHIO 43302
1-800-374-2806

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